



# INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

## DECEMBER 2015

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### Tuesday December 1, 2015

#### 8:30 a.m. Member Hike – Free ABF Member Hike

3.5 Hours



Join ABF for our weekly member hikes. Led by Park Rangers, retired Park Rangers, and other Park enthusiasts, these hikes will take you to little known but fairly easily accessible spots throughout the northern area of the Park. These hikes are a free perk for ABF members. Not a member? Join at the Visitor Center, the State Park Store or online. For more information call 760-767-0446 or visit [www.theabf.org/2016-member-hikes](http://www.theabf.org/2016-member-hikes). No advance registration required.

### Wednesday, December 2, 2015

#### 10:00 a.m. Talk & Solve the Desert Water Puzzle: Cart Demonstration 10 Min. ongoing for 2 Hrs

Do you know what it means to “take plenty of water”? Meet Park Interpretive Specialist, Regina Reiter, in front of the Visitor Center to solve The Water Puzzle and learn how to calculate your water needs while you’re visiting Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. You’ll also get some tips on how to locate the Park’s Desert Bighorn Sheep by discovering *their* watering habits! Stop by for ten minutes to develop your “water aptitude”.



### Thursday, December 3, 2015

#### 9:00 a.m. Hike – Squeeze through the Slot

3 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalists Mary Ekelund and Paul Larson on a moderate 3-mile roundtrip hike through a winding slot canyon with rugged walls and overhanging rocks. You will have to negotiate some tight squeezes and a short climb up a very steep hill. Be sure to bring the usual water, hat, and sturdy footwear. Meet at Buttes Pass Road, 1.5 miles east of Borrego Springs Road on Highway 78.

#### 11:00 a.m. Talk/Walk - Beaks and Feet: Birding Made Simple

1.5 Hour

If you’ve always wanted to learn about birds but thought it’s too complicated and only for birding experts, you’ll enjoy this simple way of appreciating the birds! Join Regina Reiter, Park Interpretive Specialist, in the Visitor Center Discovery Lab for this hands-on discovery session and get a close look at birds in and around the Visitor Center. For bird lovers 8 years old and up with no previous birding experience necessary. Bring binoculars if you have them.

#### 3:30 p.m. Walk - Let’s Be “Crepuscular”!

1 Hour

You probably know “Nocturnal”, maybe even “Diurnal” animals. Walk with Regina Reiter, Park Interpretive Specialist, near the Visitor Center at dusk to explore the fascinating and surprisingly active hour between the day and the night. Meet in front of the Visitor Center.

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UNLESS NOTED, ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE OF CHARGE AND HELD AT THE VISITOR CENTER  
(OPEN DAILY 9 AM to 5 PM) ♿ DENOTES PROGRAMS ACCESSIBLE TO DISABLED.

PLEASE CALL AHEAD FOR SPECIAL NEEDS ACCOMMODATION, (760) 767-4205.

**DOGS ARE NOT PERMITTED ON TRAILS OR TOURS.**



# INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

## DECEMBER 2015

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### Friday, December 4, 2015

#### 8:30 a.m. Hike - Roving Naturalist in Borrego Palm Canyon

**3 Hours**

Volunteer Naturalist Celeste Doughty will be roaming the Borrego Palm Canyon Trail searching for bighorn sheep and other interesting features along the trail. Look for her in her volunteer vest as you hike to the palm oasis. This is not a guided hike.

#### 10:00 a.m. Talk ♿ – Murders and Unkindnesses

**1 Hour**

Join Volunteer Naturalist Jeff Salton to discover the remarkable differences between Crows and Ravens and explore some of the mystery and intrigue in the world of birds.

### Friday-Sunday, December 4-6, 2015

#### Education Program – Colorado Desert Cultural Heritage Symposium

**3 Days**



Join ABF for a weekend devoted to the cultural history of our Southern California desert. The weekend of events will include research posters, a full day of lectures, a banquet dinner and field tours. Participants can enjoy a relaxed weekend learning about the variety of research projects happening in our region. Registration required. Please visit [www.theABF.org/2016Symposium](http://www.theABF.org/2016Symposium) or call 760-767-0446 Ext. 1004.

### Saturday, December 5, 2015

#### 7:30 a.m. Walk - Bird Walk

**1.5 Hours**

Join Volunteer Naturalist Ann Keenan for a walk around the Visitor Center vicinity looking for the common birds of our desert. All birding levels welcome. Meet in the Visitor Center parking lot. Please bring binoculars. Rain cancels.

#### 10:30 a.m. Talk ♿ - In Search of the Elusive Elephant Tree

**0.5 Hour**

The seldom seen, endangered elephant tree survives in only a few scattered and isolated spots in California. Join Volunteer Naturalist Karen Cormier at the Visitor Center to find out how to identify these distinctive trees, hear why Native Americans valued the trees, and discover where you can look for elephant tree herds “in the wild”.

#### 12:30 p.m. Talk ♿ - The Pollen Path: Seasonal Movements of Native Americans

**1 Hour**

Discover the amazing secrets of the Native Americans who lived in the area that is now Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Join Volunteer Naturalist Steve Russell in an exciting journey through the past and take a look at how early residents migrated to take advantage of different food supplies.

#### 2:00 p.m.- ♿ - Junior Rangers

**45 Min.**

Special program for children ages 7-12. Discover secrets of the desert environment. Sign up at the Visitor Center as space is limited.

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# INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

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## Saturday, December 5, 2015 (continued)

### 7:30 p.m. – Campfire ♿ - Getting the “Bad” Out of the Badlands

1 Hour

Join Ranger Mike at the Borrego Palm Canyon Campfire Center for an evening campfire program to explore the Badlands. Find out why the Badlands aren’t so bad.

## Sunday, December 6, 2015

### 10:00 a.m. Auto Tour – Ranger Encounters with Ranger Don

1.5 Hours

Meet at Mt. Palm Springs Camp Ground in the south end of the park to tour the mud caves of Arroyo Tapiado. 4 X 4 vehicles recommended.

### 1:00 p.m. Talk ♿ – Mystery Cat: Anza-Borrego’s Elusive Mountain Lion

45 Min.

Join Volunteer Naturalist Don Endicott for a 45-minute multi-media introduction to the natural history of the Park's seldom seen apex predator. Don's talk will describe the amazing attributes and signature behaviors of our big cats, show how relationships between Mountain Lions and people changed over time, and outline their key contributions to a healthy wilderness environment.

## Tuesday, December 8, 2015

### 8:30 a.m. Member Hike – Free ABF Member Hike

3.5 Hours



Join ABF for our weekly member hikes. Led by Park Rangers, retired Park Rangers, and other Park enthusiasts, these hikes will take you to little known but fairly easily accessible spots throughout the northern area of the Park. These hikes are a free perk for ABF members. Not a member? Join at the Visitor Center, the State Park Store or online. For more information call 760-767-0446 or visit [www.theabf.org/2016-member-hikes](http://www.theabf.org/2016-member-hikes). No advance registration required.

## Wednesday, December 9, 2015

### 1:00 p.m. Walk ♿ - Desert Scents

1 Hour

Enjoy an easy stroll through the Visitor Center Garden with Volunteer Naturalist Ingrid Coffin. Use your senses on this plant exploration program that meets at the Visitor Center entrance.

### 3:30 p.m. Walk - Let’s Be “Crepuscular”!

1 Hour

You probably know “Nocturnal”, maybe even “Diurnal” animals. Walk with Regina Reiter, Park Interpretive Specialist, near the Visitor Center at dusk to explore the fascinating and surprisingly active hour between the day and the night. Meet in front of the Visitor Center.

## Thursday, December 10, 2015

### 9:00 a.m. Hike – South Palm Wash

3 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalists Paul Larson and Mary Ekelund for a hike up a wash, then into a beautiful slot canyon up to a 20-25 foot dry waterfall. Meet at the overlook at Mile Marker 38 on S22 (at the phone call box near the Calcite Mine) for this moderate 4-mile hike.

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### Friday, December 11, 2015

#### 9:00 a.m. Talk ♿ - Paleontology Lecture

3 Hours

Join the Paleontology Society for their monthly lecture series. Open to the public. Meet in the Discovery Lab at the Visitor Center.

#### 7:30 p.m. Talk ♿ - Enjoy Anza-Borrego's Dark Night Sky!

1.5 Hours

Fall evenings are perfect for Stargazing! Explore constellations and learn about the importance of dark skies everywhere. Bring warm clothing, a chair or blanket to sit on, binoculars if you have them (you'll be amazed at the view!) and flashlight (red lens is preferable, to preserve night vision). Telescope viewing of galaxies, star clusters, and nebulae if weather permits. Meet at the Borrego Palm Canyon Campfire Center.

### Saturday, December 12, 2015

#### 8:00 a.m. - Strenuous Hike - Mike's Hikes: Yaqui Pass to The Slab

9 Hours



The first mile of this 8-mile route is the hardest, steepest incline, and then the route eases out to a gradual incline up to our high point, with a cross-country desert traverse. Total elevation will be around 2,500 feet. You must register in advance for this program, no exceptions. Go to [www.theABF.org/events](http://www.theABF.org/events) or call 760-767-0446 Ext. 1003.

#### 8:30 a.m. Hike - Ghost Mountain

2 Hours

Experience the Marshal South story on this trek up Ghost Mountain with Volunteer Naturalist Dan Leidecker. The hike is steep but relatively short (1 mile up, 1 mile down) and offers a glimpse into the family's life on this remote mountaintop. Bring water, a snack, hat and sturdy footwear. Meet Dan at the Blair Valley entrance (turn off highway S2 near mile marker 23).

#### 11:00 a.m. Walk ♿ - Garden Walk

45 Min.

Join a Visitor Center Interpreter who will take you on a stroll through the Visitor Center Garden to discover some of our special desert plants.

#### 1:00 p.m. Talk ♿ - The Pollen Path: Seasonal Movements of Native Americans

1 Hour

Discover the amazing secrets of the Native Americans who lived in the area that is now Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Join Volunteer Naturalist Steve Russell in an exciting journey through the past and take a look at how early residents migrated to take advantage of different food supplies.

#### 2:00 p.m. - ♿ - Junior Rangers

45 Min.

Special program for children ages 7-12. Discover secrets of the desert environment. Sign up at the Visitor Center as space is limited.

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# INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

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## Saturday, December 12, 2015 (continued)

### 7:30 p.m. Campfire Program – Owls: The Eyes into Your Culture

1 Hour

Ranger D.L. Stephen takes you on a journey exploring why owls are important to numerous cultures. *This is not your typical campfire program* but takes you back to a time when people gathered around a campfire, telling stories. This story tells the tale of the night's silent hunters' position in different cultures' mythology through the use of various forms of puppetry.

## Sunday, December 13, 2015

### 8:00 a.m. Hike - Roving Naturalist in Borrego Palm Canyon

3 Hours

Volunteer Naturalist Dan Leidecker will be roaming the Borrego Palm Canyon Trail searching for bighorn sheep and other interesting features along the trail. Look for him in his volunteer vest as you hike to the palm oasis. This is not a guided hike.

### 10:00 a.m. Ranger Program – Santa Catarina Tailgate Talk

1 Hour

Meet Ranger Callan at the Santa Catarina Historical Marker near the top of the Bypass Road in Coyote Canyon to share some of the history of the Coyote Canyon area. Four wheel drive required.

### 1:00 p.m. Walk - Desert Inspiration

1 Hour

Join Regina Reiter Park Interpretive Specialist for a sensory exploration of the desert in words and color to nourish your connection with the rugged beauty of the desert. This hands-on experience makes it surprisingly easy to enhance your enjoyment of the desert. Meet at the Visitor Center.

## Monday, December 14, 2015

### 10:00 a.m. Lecture - ♿ - What's Up With These Invasive Plants?

1 Hour

Carl E. Bell, formerly the University of California Cooperative Extension Regional Advisor in Southern California, refuses to give up the battle and is now an independent consultant offering advice, training and support to anyone wanting to join him in the invasive plant battle. He will talk to the Borrego Springs Botany Society at their regular monthly meeting in the Discovery Lab at the Park Visitor Center. The public is invited; admission is free.

## Tuesday, December 15, 2015

### 8:30 a.m. – Member Hike - Free ABF Member Hike

3.5 Hours



Join ABF for our weekly member hikes. Led by Park Rangers, retired Park Rangers, and other Park enthusiasts, these hikes will take you to little known but fairly easily accessible spots throughout the northern area of the Park. These hikes are a free perk for ABF members. Not a member? Ask about joining at the Visitor Center or State Park Store. Call 760-767-0446 or visit [www.theabf.org/2016-member-hikes](http://www.theabf.org/2016-member-hikes). No advance registration required.

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### Thursday, December 17, 2015

#### 8:30 a.m. Hike – Stone Bridge Wash

3 Hours

Bring your cameras! We will explore a wash, walk through a slot canyon, and end up at a spectacular dry waterfall. There is a steep, short walk in soft dirt to get down to the wash from the highway (takes about 2 minutes) and then an easy 2.2 mile hike. Meet your hike leader, Volunteer Naturalist Jan Bigelow, at the Visitor Center parking lot to carpool. Bring sturdy shoes, water, hat.

#### 1:00 p.m. Walk ♿ - Desert Scents

1 Hour

Enjoy an easy stroll through the Visitor Center Garden with Volunteer Naturalist Ingrid Coffin. Use your senses on this plant exploration program that meets at the Visitor Center entrance.

#### 3:00 p.m. Talk - Geology for Creative Thinkers

1 Hour

Explore the basic rock types found in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and the geologic processes that shaped them in a fun, hands-on way that makes Geology come alive! Join Park Interpretive Specialist Regina Reiter at the Park Visitor Center for a rockin' good time with rocks! No previous geology vocabulary necessary.

### Friday, December 18, 2015

#### 9:00 a.m. Hike - Borrego Mountain West Butte

3 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalists Mary Ekelund and Paul Larson for a moderate 3-mile (roundtrip) hike to the top of one of our smaller peaks, but with great views! There will be some walking on narrow ridges and scrambling on rocks toward the summit. Meet just off Highway #78 at the intersection of Buttes Pass Road, 1.5 miles east of Borrego Springs Road.

#### 10:00 a.m. Talk ♿ – Murders and Unkindnesses

1 Hour

Join Volunteer Naturalist Jeff Salton to discover the remarkable differences between Crows and Ravens and explore some of the mystery and intrigue in the world of birds.

### Saturday, December 19, 2015

#### 7:30 a.m. Walk - Bird Walk

1.5 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalist Ann Keenan for a walk around the Visitor Center vicinity looking for the common birds of our desert. All birding levels welcome. Meet in the Visitor Center parking lot. Please bring binoculars. Rain cancels.

#### 9:00 a.m. Hike – ABF Hikes & Hops at the Elephant Knees

6 Hours

Weather and road conditions permitting, this trip will head out for a 4-mile excursion in Mud Hills Wash to the Elephant Knees in the Split Mountain area. You bring your hiking shoes; we'll bring craft beer made in San Diego County! Register at [www.theABF.org/events](http://www.theABF.org/events) or 760-767-0446 .



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# INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

## DECEMBER 2015

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### Saturday, December 19, 2015 (continued)

#### 11:00 a.m. Walk ♿ - Garden Walk

45 Min.

Join a Visitor Center Interpreter who will take you on a stroll through the Visitor Center Garden to discover some of our special desert plants.

#### 1:00 p.m. Garden Walk - Small World

1 Hour

Everyone is impressed with the vast dimensions and stunning vistas of Anza Borrego Desert State Park. The desert is equally impressive on a micro-scale. Stretch your perspective and explore the natural history of the Park up close and personal with Volunteer Naturalist Daniel Hellyer for an easy walk. Meet at the entrance to the Visitor Center.

#### 2:00 p.m.- ♿ - Junior Rangers

45 Min.

Special program for children ages 7-12. Discover secrets of the desert environment. Sign-up at the Visitor Center as space is limited.

#### 7:30 p.m. Campfire Program – The Amazing Adaptations of Anza-Borrego

1 Hour

Join Ranger Josh and his trusted truck “Badge” for a picture ride-along at the Borrego Palm Canyon Campfire Center.

### Saturday & Sunday, December 19 & 20, 2015

#### Education Program – Borrego Desert Club Lecture and Field Trip with Anna Kryczka 2 Days



Through an exploration of the architecture and institutions of modern Borrego, this course will contextualize the town's development within architectural, environmental and American history. Registration at [www.theABF.org/events](http://www.theABF.org/events) or call 760-767-0446 Ext. 1004.

### Sunday, December 20, 2015

#### 9:00 a.m. Walk ♿ - Waiting for Rain

1 Hour

Get to know some of the surprises waiting for rain in the Anza-Borrego Desert. Hear about the winter rains (*Equipatas*) that decide if there will be desert wildflowers and the summer rains (*Las Aguas*) that bring flashfloods. Meet Ranger Heidi at the entrance to the Culp Valley Primitive Camp Ground for an easy stroll on the Culp Valley All-Access Trail.

#### 11:30 a.m. Talk/Walk - Beaks and Feet: Birding Made Simple

1.5 Hours

If you've always wanted to learn about birds but thought it's too complicated and only for birding experts, you'll enjoy this simple way of appreciating the birds! Join Regina Reiter, Park Interpretive Specialist, in the Visitor Center Discovery Lab for this hands-on discovery session and get a close look at birds in and around the Visitor Center. For bird lovers 8 and up with no previous birding experience necessary. Bring binoculars if you have them.

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# INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

# DECEMBER 2015

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## Sunday, December 20, 2015 (continued)

### 2:00 p.m. Walk - Desert Inspiration

1 Hour

Join Park Interpretive Specialist Regina Reiter for a sensory exploration of the desert in words and color to nourish your connection with the rugged beauty of the desert. This hands-on experience makes it surprisingly easy to enhance your enjoyment of the desert. Meet in front of the Visitor Center.

## Tuesday December 22, 2015

### 8:30 a.m. Member Hike – Free ABF Member Hike

3.5 Hours



Join ABF for our weekly member hikes. Led by Park Rangers, retired Park Rangers, and other Park enthusiasts, these hikes will take you to little known but fairly easily accessible spots throughout the northern area of the Park. These hikes are a free perk for ABF members. Not a member? Join at the Visitor Center, the State Park Store or online. For more information call 760-767-0446 or visit [www.theabf.org/2016-member-hikes](http://www.theabf.org/2016-member-hikes). No advance registration required.

## Wednesday, December 23, 2015

### 9:00 a.m. Talk/Walk – Roving Ranger

1 Hour

Come meet Roving Ranger Steve at Bill Kenyon Overlook (2WD OK – short hike to the Overlook) to learn and share in some of Anza Borrego Desert State Park's extraordinary backcountry locations. We will speak of ancient voices, sift through stories in stone, and seek the wild in wildlife.

### 10:00 a.m. Talk & Solve the Desert Water Puzzle: Cart Demonstration 10 Min. ongoing for 2 Hrs.

Do you know what it means to “take plenty of water”? Meet Park Interpretive Specialist Regina Reiter in front of the Visitor Center to solve The Water Puzzle and learn how to calculate your water needs while you're visiting Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. You'll also get some tips on how to locate the Park's Desert Bighorn Sheep by discovering *their* watering habits! Stop by for ten minutes to develop your “water aptitude”.

## Thursday, December 24, 2015

### 2:00 p.m.- & - Junior Rangers

45 Min.

Special program for children ages 7-12. Discover secrets of the desert environment. Sign up at the Visitor Center as space is limited.

## Friday, December 25, 2015

### 2:00 p.m. Walk - Gifts Under the Trees

1 Hour

Join Regina Reiter, Park Interpretive Specialist, for a free-spirited search for the many delightful surprises that Nature has left under the desert trees in the Visitor Center garden. Awaken your sense of wonder and sharpen your skills of observation in some holiday fun! Meet at the Visitor Center.

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# INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

# DECEMBER 2015

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## Saturday, December 26, 2015

### 8:30 a.m. Hike – Ghost Mountain

2 Hours

Experience the Marshal South story on this trek up Ghost Mountain with Volunteer Naturalist Dan Leidecker. The hike is steep but relatively short (1 mile up, 1 mile down) and offers a glimpse into the family's life on this remote mountaintop. Bring water, a snack, hat and sturdy footwear. Meet Dan at the Blair Valley entrance (watch for the Butterfield Stage sign, and turn off Highway S2 near mile marker 23).

### 11:00 a.m. Walk - Gifts Under the Trees

1 Hour

Join Regina Reiter, Park Interpretive Specialist, for a free-spirited search for the many delightful surprises that Nature has left under the desert trees in the Visitor Center garden. Awaken your sense of wonder and sharpen your skills of observation in some holiday fun! Meet outside the Visitor Center.

### 1:00 p.m. Garden Walk - Small World

1 Hour

Everyone is impressed with the vast dimensions and stunning vistas of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. The desert is equally impressive on a micro-scale. Stretch your perspective and explore the natural history of the Park up close and personal with Volunteer Naturalist Daniel Hellyer for an easy walk. Meet at the entrance to the Visitor Center.

### 2:00 p.m. - ♿ - Junior Rangers

45 Min.

Special program for children ages 7-12. Discover secrets of the desert environment. Sign up at the Visitor Center as space is limited.

### 7:30 p.m. Campfire Talk ♿ Mystery Cat: Anza-Borrego's Elusive Mountain Lion

45 Min.

Join Volunteer Naturalist Don Endicott for a 45-minute multi-media introduction to the natural history of the Park's seldom seen apex predator. Don's talk will describe the amazing attributes and signature behaviors of our big cats, show how relationships between Mountain Lions and people changed over time, and outline their key contributions to a healthy wilderness environment. Borrego Palm Canyon Campfire Center.

## Sunday, December 27, 2015

### 9:00 a.m. Talk - Tailgate Tour of Fish Creek

1 Hour

Come meet Roving Ranger Steve at the foot of the Red Cliffs located 1 and 1/4 miles from Split Mountain Road (1/4 mile past Fish Creek Campground). You will hear an uplifting tale that is sure to sweep you off your feet in a rush of flowing information that will carry you from the skies over Whale Peak to the shores of the Salton Sea. **4WD and high clearance is required.**

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# INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

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### Sunday, December 27, 2015 (continued)

#### 1:00 p.m. Walk & - Garden Walk

45 Min.

Join a Visitor Center Interpreter who will take you on a stroll through the Visitor Center Garden to discover some of our special desert plants.

#### 3:00 p.m. Talk - Geology for Creative Thinkers

1 Hour

Explore the basic rock types found in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and the geologic processes that shaped them in a fun, hands-on way that makes Geology come alive! Join Park Interpretive Specialist Regina Reiter at the Park Visitor Center for a rockin' good time with rocks! No previous geology vocabulary necessary.



#### 5:30 p.m. Walk - Sunset to Moonrise Walk

1 Hour

There's so much wonder and mystery about the Moon and the desert under a full moon. Walk and discover on this easy stroll with Park Interpretive Specialist Regina Reiter. Bring binoculars, if you have them, and a flashlight just in case the moon disappears. Meet in front of the Visitor Center.

### Tuesday, December 29, 2015

#### 8:30 a.m. Member Hike – Free ABF Member Hike

3.5 Hours



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### Wednesday, December 30, 2015

#### 9:00 a.m. Talk – Roving Ranger at Font's Point

1 Hour

Meet Roving Ranger Steve at Font's Point to learn and share in some of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park's extraordinary backcountry locations. We will speak of ancient voices, sift through stories in stone, and seek the wild in wildlife.

#### 10:00 a.m. & Talk -Solve the Desert Water Puzzle: Cart Demonstration 10 Min. ongoing for 2 Hrs

Do you know what it means to "take plenty of water"? Meet Park Interpretive Specialist, Regina Reiter, in front of the Visitor Center to solve The Water Puzzle and learn how to calculate your water needs while you're visiting Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. You'll also get some tips on how to locate the Park's Desert Bighorn Sheep by discovering *their* watering habits! Stop by for ten minutes to develop your "water aptitude".

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# INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

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### Wednesday, December 30, 2015 (continued)

#### 2:00 p.m. Walk - Gifts Under the Trees

1 Hour

Join Regina Reiter, Park Interpretive Specialist, for a free-spirited search for the many delightful surprises that Nature has left under the desert trees in the Visitor Center garden. Awaken your sense of wonder and sharpen your skills of observation in some holiday fun! Meet outside the Visitor Center.

### Thursday, December 31, 2015

#### 11:00 a.m. Talk/Walk - Beaks and Feet: Birding Made Simple

1.5 Hour

If you've always wanted to learn about birds but thought it's too complicated and only for birding experts, you'll enjoy this simple way of appreciating the birds! Join Regina Reiter, Park Interpretive Specialist, in the Visitor Center Discovery Lab for this hands-on discovery session and get a close look at birds in and around the Visitor Center. For bird lovers 8 years old and up with no previous birding experience necessary. Bring binoculars if you have them.

#### 2:00 p.m. Walk -Desert Inspiration

1 Hour

Join Regina Reiter, Park Interpretive Specialist, for a sensory exploration of the desert in words and color to nourish your connection with the rugged beauty of the desert. This hands-on experience makes it surprisingly easy to enhance your enjoyment of the desert. Meet at the Visitor Center.



### Friday, January 1, 2016

#### 10:00 a.m. First Day Hike – Panoramic Overlook

2 Hours

Meet Park Interpretive Specialist Regina Reiter at the Visitor Center to walk across the desert and up the Panoramic Overlook Trail for good views of the Borrego Valley and Font's Point. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water.

#### 1:30 p.m. First Day Hike – Bill Kenyon Overlook

2 Hours

Join Park Interpreter Sally Theriault for a 1.5-mile walk on uneven ground to a beautiful desert overlook. Meet at Yaqui Pass Campground, on Highway S-3, 1 mile north of Tamarisk Grove Campground. Please wear sturdy shoes and bring water.

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UNLESS NOTED, ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE OF CHARGE AND HELD AT THE VISITOR CENTER  
(OPEN DAILY 9 AM to 5 PM) ♿ DENOTES PROGRAMS ACCESSIBLE TO DISABLED.

PLEASE CALL AHEAD FOR SPECIAL NEEDS ACCOMMODATION, (760) 767-4205.

**DOGS ARE NOT PERMITTED ON TRAILS OR TOURS.**



# INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES DECEMBER 2015

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## DESERT SAFETY

✓ **Carry water AND drink it**

Saving your water for the hike back has led to death in Anza-Borrego. Drink plenty of water before you leave home, while you hike, and on the return route. If you feel thirsty, it is already too late. Drink lots of water and drink often.

✓ **Make sure your vehicle is desert-ready.**

Equip your vehicle for the desert. You should always carry extra water, a shade tarp, a shovel, a tire pump, and extra food.

✓ **Prepare yourself.**

In addition to carrying water, you should have protective clothing, sunscreen, a hat, a good map, food and a first aid kit which includes a comb and tweezers.

✓ **Do not split up the group**

Stay together. Never leave anyone behind to rest.

✓ **Have a plan.**

Leave all your trip information with a friend. Tell him/her your destination, the route you intend to follow, your expected return time, a description of your vehicle with license plate number, and the time by which he/she should notify park authorities in case you do not return.

✓ **Leave snakes alone.**

Many venomous snakes live in the desert. If you threaten them, they may strike. It is illegal to harass, catch, or kill any snake within Anza-Borrego. If bitten, remain calm and seek immediate medical attention.

✓ **When emergencies happen ...**

Stop. Stay calm. Seek shelter. If you are with your vehicle, remain there; do not leave it. Signal with mirrors, white cloth, whistle (three short blasts on a whistle, pause, then three more, repeat frequently), and put your hood up. It is much easier to find a vehicle in the desert than a person!!!

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